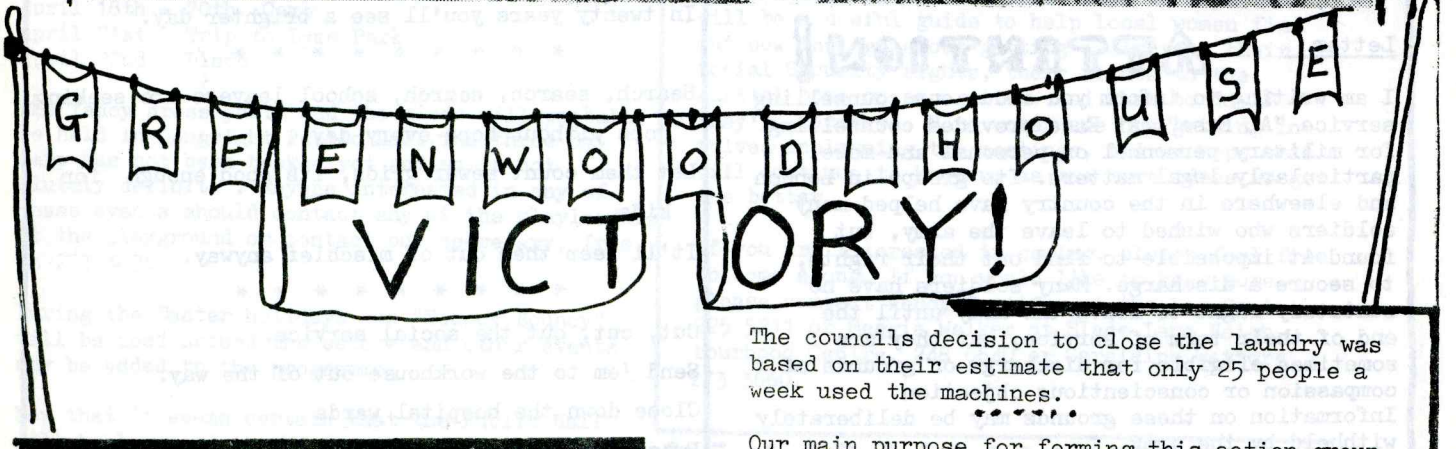
LONGSIGHT NEWS

MAR ~ APR 77 No 04 5P

Banners outside Town Hall Monday Feb 14th.



Report to Council

"GREENWOOD HOUSE IS UNECONOMIC BUT THE LAUNDRY IS A USEFUL ASSET AND IN A DIFFICULT SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT.

RECOMMEND REMAIN OPEN"

Decision of the Council

"CLOSE GREENWOOD HOUSE LAUNDRY"

The councils decision to close the laundry was based on their estimate that only 25 people a week used the machines.

.....

Our main purpose for forming this action group was to get the laundry open again. The results of our survey were very encouraging, out of 184 replies received we found 129 who said the laundry should be opened again, with 87 families who used it regularly. This is a direct contradiction of the Council's figure of 25 users a week.

ACTION GROUP

We formed an action group, contacted local newspapers and radio to publicise the disgraceful decision to close the laundry and point out that there was no consultation with the tenants or notification of their intention to close it down.

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Manchester - Periodicals A-Z

The Manchester Freethought Association

The above organisation was founded in 1973 to bring together Freethinkers who live in Manchester and the vicinity.

Historically, Freethought has become identified with the rejection of religious doctrine, and it is known that there are many in the Manchester region who share this attitude.

Members of our association are willing, upon request, to visit people of like mind in hospital, and advice regarding Secular Funeral Services is readily available.

It is our object to promote the study of all topics without any religious basis or bias, and to encourage the spread of rational thinking in human conduct.

For further details and membership please write or contact the secretary:

George Mills,
94 Hamilton Rd,
Longsight,
Manchester M13 OPJ.

Letter

ATTENTION!

I am writing to inform you about our counselling service "At Ease". At Ease provides counselling for military personnel on personal and more particularly legal matters. Its groups in London and elsewhere in the country have helped many soldiers who wished to leave the army, but found it impossible to find out their rights, to secure a discharge. Many soldiers have no statutory right to leave the army until the end of their term of service, but they are sometimes eligible for discharge on grounds of compassion or conscientious objection. Information on these grounds may be deliberately withheld by the army.

If you are in contact with any servicepeople in this position, please contact us, We have access to lawyers who can help at courts-martial, information on rights of discharge, and a large amount of experience in all aspects of this specialised field.

With thanks,

H. PARKER
At Ease,
c/o Manchester Area Resource Centre,
14 Piccadilly,
Manchester M1 3AW.

WHAT A LIFE!

Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the homeless are squatting.
WHO'S THAT banging at the door?
If you don't let us in we'll bust the door in
Cry the police with dogs, and you'll never get
another place in town.

* * * * * * * * *

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the unemployed are marching,
Who's that writing to the press?
Why the cushy ones in a job.
Screaming SCROUNGERS didn't you guess?
Of the plight of the workless they do not
want to know.

* * * * * * * * * *

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the poor are marching.
Who wants to cut their miserable pay?
It's THOSE who watch their profits soar,
and their bankbalances rise more and more
While the poor get poorer every day.

* * * * * * * * * *

Up, up, up, the rents are rising.
The struggle gets harder every day.
Prices up, wages cut.
Callaghan says keep your peckers up,
In twenty years you'll see a brighter day.

* * * * * * * * * *

Search, search, search, school leavers are seeking
jobs without hope every day.
Let them count sewer grids, its good enough for
kids,
It'll keep them out of mischief anyway.

* * * * * * * * * *

Cut, cut, cut the social service.
Send 'em to the workhouse out of the way.
Close down the hospital wards
Prescribe some senna pods,
WHO wants a Health Act anyway?

T. P.

Please send in your letters, news, and views for the May – June issue by April 12th - to 113 Hamilton Rd.

36023072/AG/Manchester - Periodicals A-Z/A

WOMENS RIGHTS

8pm Weds.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

FUEL POLICY (What to do if you get cut off) - March 2nd.

COHABITATION RULE (Social Security) - March 16th.

RAPE: THE RAPE CRISIS CENTRE - March 30th.

ALL MEETINGS AT LONGSIGHT METHODIST CHURCH HALL, STOCKPORT RD, facing Longsight Police Station.

ADMISSION FREE - KIDS WILL BE LOOKED AFTER.

The Womens Rights group started meeting in Longsight Methodist Hall last year after some discussion with local women on topics that most women needed to know about. 4 of us did most of the organizing and we had a series of meetings on such subjects as Refuges, social security, divorce law and childminding. On average, about 25 women come to the meetings and we have a creche for kids using toys available in the hall.

We decided to have a Xmas party for all the kids whose mums come to the meetings and this turned out to be a good do. They enjoyed the food, games and visit from Santa very much, and bottles of sherry for the mums who were all drunk within the first half hour.

We are also writing a handbook about all the topics we have learnt and talked about so far, which should be on sale about May. We hope it will be a useful guide to help local women find out how they go about getting a divorce, their Social Security rights, their rights to the marital home on separation, and what to do if they're battered. More women are now getting involved inplanning the meetings, and we hope this will continue to happen, as the more ideas we get the better.

If you are interested in coming, please feel free to come along. If you would like to know more, please contact Wendy Pettifer at the Law Centre, 225 5211 or Maggie Walker at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, 248 6640 or Geraldine Watters, 273 3660.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Our proposed Easter programme is as follows:
April 10th Fancy Dress Party
April 11th Mystery Tour Day trip
April 12th Youth Club at West Indian Centre, Carmoor Rd, 7 15pm
April 13th Roller Skating, meet at Adventure Playground 7 15pm.
April 15th Mystery Tour day trip.
April 18th - 20th Camp
April 21st Trip to Lyme Park
April 22nd Disco

The fancy dress party and the disco will probably be held in Longsight Public Hall.The three day camp has not been booked yet and so is not olutely definite . Anyone interested in any of these events should contact any of the playleaders at the playground or contact our secretary, Iris, on 273 3096

During the Easter holidays our "Bouncy Bouncy" will be used around the estate and other events may be added tp the programme.

Now that it seems certain that the Public Hall will be licenced to the Steering Committee soon, we expect to be opening a youth club fairly soon. This will take place on 2 evenings a week. All the details of membership etc have still to be finalized but leaflets will be circulated when the time comes.

Leaflets publicizing a forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held at the beginning of May will also be circulated closer to the actual date Please come and bring your support and ideas.

LONGSIGHT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, PLYMOUTH GROVE WEST.

SUBSCRIBE!

to Longsight News
25p. for 5 issues.

Fill in coupon & return with 25p to
113 Hamilton Rd.

NAME . . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . . .

GREENWOOD HOUSE CONT. FROM P. 1.

We held a demonstration outside the Town Hall on Monday 14th Feb and afterwards some of us remained to hear if the Housing Committee would discuss Greenwood House laundry. To our surprise it was first on the agenda. The results of our survey were mentioned and the differences between our figures and theirs were discussed. Apparently, they had arrived at their figure of 25 users weekly from the amount of money collected in the machines.

They agreed that the hot water should be charged for, there was some talk about how they could do this and they finally decided on installing meters. They agreed the wash house should be reopened for a 3 month period and the number of users monitored. We don't know how they are going to do this but we would like to have our own numbers to refer to. This is really important to us because as you know, Town Hall have got their sums wrong once before!

So we need all your support and backing:-
1. In using the wash house
2. Suggestions on how we can count the number of users weekly, for example would you be prepared to sign in when you use the wash house?
3. Do you think a rota system for using the wash house is a practical idea for preventing queues?

THE WASH HOUSE WAS REOPENED WEDNESDAY 16th FEB FOR 3 MONTHS TRIAL, WITH METERED HOT WATER AND WASHERS UP FROM 27p TO 30p.

FUTURE OF GREENWOOD HOUSE

Now for the future - we would like to find out what is happening to Greenwood House itself - Demolition? Modernisation? Students? Or a gradual decline into slum property?

A lot of people have asked these questions, and others, about the future of Greenwood House. We can try to find out what is going to happen to us here on this estate.

The re-opening of our laundry is not the end of our action group, it is just the beginning. We are trying to get the room opposite the caretakers office for everyones benefit - mothers and toddlers group, old age pensioners, meetings, discos etc. Mr Bellshaw (Apex House) has been sent a letter applying for the use of this room, which was originally meant for the tenants but is now used by Direct Works for storage. This is ridiculous because as you know there are practically no facilities for anyone living in Greenwood House. We are awaiting a reply. Don't know if all of you have seen this room, but it's fairly large, with a toilet and a small kitchen. We could make it look really nice by brightening it up with posters etc.

Also looking to the future, one of the things we hope to try and do something about is the repairs and maintenace problems many of us have to face at one time or another. Things like broken window frames faulty plugs, that should be fairly quick and easy to repair, but for reasons best known to themselves, take Direct Works an incredible length of time to carry out.

CONT.

THE ACTION GROUP MEETS IN THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ON WED MARCH 2nd AND EVERY FORTNIGHT AFTER THAT, IN THE ROOM OPPOSITE THE OFFICE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME - WHETHER YOU WANT TO COME ALONG AND LISTEN TO WHAT IS GOING ON OR IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS ETC. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU.

Greenwood House Action Group - chairperson Jean Roberts at no.44, Secretary Ivy Graham at no.51, Treasurer Maureen Donegan at no.26.

GARDENING HINTS FOR MARCH

BY MARY OLIVER, LONGSIGHT GARDENING CLUB.

This month you can really get moving. The ground dug and limed, wait for a nice day to fork over, level it and stake where you want to put your vegetables.

OUTDOOR TOMATOES should be in, the seeds I mean, with just enough compost to cover them. Glass should be put on top and then a daily paper wrapped round and over. These will germinate in 2 weeks. As soon as they are through take them off and put the small seedlings on a window sill facing the East to have first sun. As they grow I will tell you how to get a good dark green plant.

PEAS. Do have a row of them. Make a trench a spade deep and put all peelings, cabbage and sprout stalks into it even onion skins. Ask your neighbour neighbours if they have any, put them in and cover with soil. Mark the site.

RUNNER BEANS should be the same but watch the birds round here, they like a feed.

WASH all pots and seed pans.

Have you ever wanted to grow a good sized CHRYSANTHEMUM? Well to start with ask around for some cuttings which are from the root. Please don't have any with roots on. Keep them and let them grow their own. Just try 3 or 4, about 3 ins long. With a sharp knife cut just below where a leaf is formed, dip in water, then in a little rooting powder and put in a small plastic pot of half peat and half sand. Well watered, put on your kitchen window sill, covered with a plastic bag for 3 weeks. By then they will have rooted or died.

That's enough for this month!

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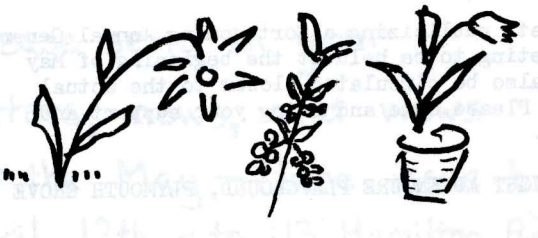
Longsight Gardening Club: Mary Oliver 19 Markfield Ave or Evelyn Armstrong, 2 Mull Ave.



PUBLIC HALL

At the last Longsight Steering Committee meeting on Monday Feb 7 it was decided that the offer of a reduction in charges for hire of rooms in the Public Hall, made by the Recreation Services Dept. would be accepted. We hope that we will be able to raise the money for paying an extra £2.50 an hour when the Hall is used in the evenings and at weekends.

Apart from the existing groups in the Longsight areanow having a place to meet, the availability of the Hall enables us to have more community activities organised in the near future.

We will now be able to form the Community Association which has been planned for some time. You will be able to join this association and take part in organising the Centre. The proposed membership fee will be 50p for adults and 25p for those under 18 years old and Senior Citizens.

There will be a dance in the Hall on March 4 with a live group, disco and late bar. Tickets at 50p can be obtained from Gwen and Eleanor in the Library or in the New Victoria pub.

Also there will be a Public Meeting on March 8 at 7.30 in the Public Hall when the Community Association and a management committee will be officially formed. So please come along and give us your support.

Electric Bills

25p. off every £1 if you are on S.S. or F.I.S.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO 25% OFF YOUR CURRENT ELECTRIC BILL?

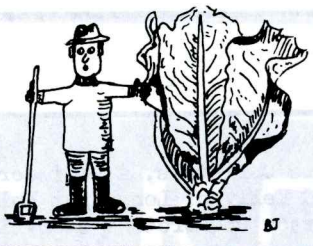
IF YOU ARE CLAIMING SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT, SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION OR FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT YOU CAN CLAIM FOR THE WINTER QUARTERS ELECTRIC BILL. TAKE THE BILL TO YOUR USUAL POST OFFICE WHEN YOU DRAW YOUR MONEY & THEY WILL GIVE YOU A VOUCHER WHICH YOU TAKE WITH YOU OR SEND IN WHEN YOU PAY YOUR BILL, LESS THE AMOUNT ON THE VOUCHER.

IF YOU PAY BY MEANS OF SLOT METER, THE METER MAN SHOULD LEAVE YOU A STATEMENT THAT YOU CAN TAKE TO THE POST OFFICE AND GET A CASH REFUND.

BUT IF YOU PAY YOUR LANDLORD FOR THE ELECTRICITY THROUGH THE METER ie. HE OPENS IT, THEN UNFORTUNATELY YOU CANNOT CLAIM.

IF YOU PAY BY AN EASY PAY SCHEME OR THE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYS YOUR BILLS THEN APPLY AS IF YOU WERE PAYING THE ELECTRICITY BOARD DIRECT AND THEY WILL CREDIT YOUR FUTURE ACCOUNT.

OFFER CLOSES 31 MAY WHICH GIVES EVERYONE TIME TO CLAIM



SOCIAL SECURITY: LOST BOOKS, GIROS ETC

It appears that someone in Victoria Park is making a lot of money out of stolen order books and Giros. If you have ever had yours stolen you will know you have to wait 6 or 7 weeks before the Social Security will replace it, and you have to exist all that time on about £4 a week in food vouchers and nothing else. Now there is a chance for a better deal if you ever get into this unfortunate predicament.

HIGH COURT RULING

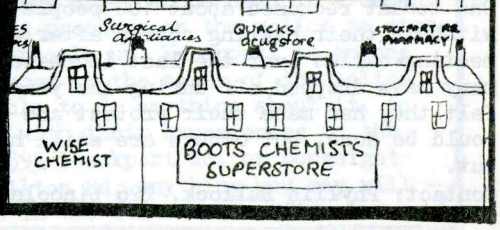
As a result of a recent High Court Case concerning a Manchester family a precedent has been set by which the Social can be compelled to replace lost order books. The practice of arbitrary decision not to replace has caused tremendous hardship to many completely innocent families. Unfortunately the High Court Case will affect only payment books but steps are being taken to bring to court a lost Giro test case.

If you know of anyone who has suffered hardship as a result of a lost book or giro, then contact Longsight Claimants Union, 642 Stockport Rd Wed or Fri.

SHORTSIGHT NEWS

BUS LANE: An experimental peak period Mon- Fri bus lane will operate along the outbound section of Stockport Rd from Plymouth Grove West to Plymouth Grove. This very short stretch of bus lane is intended to improve traffic conditions "on the stretch of Stockport Rd from Ardwick Green to Crowcroft Rd". Heard of that stretch before? it was meant to be a traffic-free pedestrian walkway plus bus lane. What became of that idea?

Remember our cartoon last time showing hundreds of chemists shops sprouting up along Stockport Rd to cash in on the new Health Centre? Well, one we didn't think of. The Health Centre itself is to be extended, to provide... a pharmacy!



FORT HARDWICK

Social Events

The Community Association still meets every Wednesday at St. Stephen's School from 8pm. An outing to Blackpool is planned for May.

Patrols

A petition has been sent to the police asking for more patrols not only on the ground level but also along the decks because of the high number of break-ins every week. Unfortunately the decks are considered private property and the police are not allowed to patrol these, so it is up to the council to provide security staff.

RENT STRIKE

Many of the tenants have been withholding some or all of the heating costs out of their rent for a year now, in protest against the unfairness and expense of these charges.

"When I first came here the heating charge was 65p a week" one woman told us. "Now it is £3.12p a week, winter and summer. The heating is off at the central boiler when we need it on, and comes on at 3am and we start suffocating in bed. We can turn it off when we want but we still pay the same. We have had two very good summers when we haven't needed to use use any heating, but we still pay all the year round, so for what we actually use the cost works out at more like £6 or£7 a week. This is only the underfloor heating, and you have to have your own electric fire for when it is off in the evening, and as there is no gas supply in the flats you have a full electric bill to pay each quarter on top of the heating charge".

"We are all willing to pay for what we use", another rent striker said,"but this is completely unfair. I have now been visited by a council official who says they will take proceedings to repossess my home. But I'm not giving in. Gerald Kaufman (the MP) pledged his support at a tenants' meeting last year so we'll see what he will do now. Also we were told that only 12 people were still on strike, but I know that is not true and I know other people who haven't heard anything yet".

One tenant reckoned about 100 people decided to withhold their heating charge after a tenants' meeting called over the last increase. But many have dropped off during the year. Some felt they had made their protest and no more could be done, but others are still holding out.
Contact: Phyllis Bullock, 226 Lincoln House.

There are an estimated 910,000 people in Britain who are entitled to Supplementary Benefits who are not claiming them (official TUC figure). The Longsight Claimants' Union know that some of these people live in or near Longsight and want to contact them.

Some may be pensioners going short of food to meet heavy heating bills, possibly too proud to complain. They may be people living in cold accommodation with small children, or chronically sick people who need help with heating costs.

Unemployed people are usually told at the employment exchange to apply for social security as well as unemployment benefit, though there could be one or two who may be entitled to social security and who have not claimed.

Others we are anxious to reach are unemployed immigrants who may have a language problem. We have been informed by the Social Security office that a smaller percentage of these people are claiming than they would expect. If you can 't undestand the official leaflets don't worry, you're not alone and we're working on the translations into ordinary English so come and see us.

Many people are put off in their claims by a lack of information, waiting on hard seats in offices, endless form filling and final disappointment when the claim is turned down. If this happens to you, you have a right of appeal to an "independent" tribunal and there again the Claimants' Union can advise and assist you.

A few days before Christmas, a writ for libel was served by PC Kelly of Longsight Police Station on a person who wrote a story in Longsight News nearly two years ago.

The story was about a boy being beaten up by PC Kelly at the police station.

The costs of a libel case run into thousands of pounds -- why is PC Kelly going to such lengths to rekindle memories that most people in Longsight forgot long ago?

NO DENIAL

It is very important to note, despite all his efforts to "clear his name", that PC Kelly has never actually denied that the incident took place. Seven months after the story was originally published, Longsight News received a letter from solicitors for the Greater Manchester Police (so he's not paying the legal costs himself!!!). The letter demanded that we state "the PC Kelly mentioned in the article is not the PC Kelly of Longsight Police Station" (who was he then?). We were not prepared to retract something that we knew to be true. But in line with our usual policy when someone disagrees with what has been said in Longsight News, PC Kelly was offered space in the paper to put the story straight as he saw it.

CLAIMANTS' UNION NEWS

Manchester DHSS branches seem to have a poor record for using their discretionary powers to award additions towards clothing, heating and other heavy bills, which they can do to alleviate hardship. Also the local appeals tribunals seem to be amongst the toughest in the country. But this is one reasOn why we need a claimants' union, so if you're claiming, bored and frustrated or just out of work, why not spend Wednesday or Friday with us at the Neighbourhood Centre (642 Stockport Rd)?

.....

And finally, a few words on the misrepresentation of claimants in the national press.

We are not "scroungers". We are simply workers who do not have paid work, due mainly to an economic slump over which we have no control. Or old and infirm people, single parent families, etc..

The Social Security system is designed to be difficult to "fiddle". Indeed it's difficult enough to make a legitimate claim let alone a fraudulent one. Possibly one fifth of a penny of every pound paid out in social security benefits goes to a fraud.

It is not easy to be better off on Supplementary benefits than at work. The main group of people who are, are unskilled workers supporting a family of four or more children and paying high rents.

So if you're employed we would like your support for your unemployed neighbours -- it could be your job going next. And if you're not don't be ashamed, you're not alone.

P.C. KELLY SUES FOR LIBEL

In March 76, a further letter arrived from the solicitors threatening libel proceedings unless we retracted the story. We replied that we were not going to be intimidated into lying to our readers, and that we were quite prepared to defend the truth of what we had published in the courts. We again pointed out that PC Kelly was free to publish his own point of view in the paper.

We heard no more from them until the writ was served a few days before Christmas. The writ has been accepted, and unless the police withdraw the action, it will go to court in about two years time.

SUPPRESSION OF TRUTH

The big papers are unable to publish many news stories that the public ought to know about, for fear of prosecution under libel laws, even though the stories are true. One of the important things about community newspapers like Longsight News is that they are able to publish these stories, because, even if they are had up for libel, they have neither enough money nor property to pay any damages.

So, in this case, all PC Kelly will actually achieve is adverse publicity about police brutality, which is all to the good, because it needs publicising.

COLLECTING EVIDENCE

The Manchester Law Centre and probation officers in Manchester are already collecting information about police brutality in the area, which they hope can be used in a campaign to bring pressure on the police to stop them beating people up. We appeal to anyone who has suffered at the hands of the police and felt unable to do anything about it, to come forward with their experiences to the Law Centre, 595 Stockport Rd, or Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Rd. Anything you say will of course be in the strictest confidence.

BELLE VUE REDGATE LANE

See STORY on FACING PAGE

Advice Centre News

There has been a bit of a lull since Christmas which wasn't such a bad thing as we have been busy moving to the new Centre at 642 Stockport Rd. We are now sharing a room with the Claimants Union while waiting for the repairs to be done. I think those people who have already been round to our new place will agree that it is much more comfortable than the old place and a better atmosphere.

BATTERED WOMEN

We can help women who are being battered or in matrimonial difficulties. We can help with gett -ing an emergency injunction to restrain the husband or boyfriend from molesting you, help with regaining the home if you have been forced to leave, or help in getting a new home.

PEOPLE FROM ASIA

One of our workers is from Asia and speaks several Asian languages, so Asian callers are particularly welcome.

LEGAL ADVICE

We also have free legal advice on the spot, from a helper from the Law Centre.

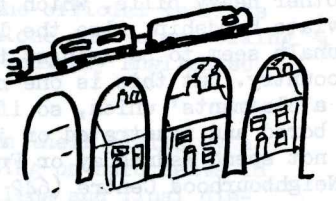
HOUSING ACTION AREA

If you have been told that the Housing Dept has not got the power to reduce the standards demanded for you to get an improvement grant we have discovered that this is not true. They DO have this power, which would be very helpful to the majority of people who cannot afford the very high standards currently being insisted on by the Area Team. Then if the work still comes to above the ceiling figure of £3,200 the Dept of the Environment HAVE THE POWER TO ALLOW HIGHER LIMITS.

Also it is possible in certain circumstances to get grant aid towards roof insulation, which is normally not granted-aided. And if you are a pensioner or on social security you should ask about the 90% grant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE TOPICS OR ANYTHING ELSE, COME TO THE ADVICE & INFORMATION CENTRE, 642 STOCKPORT RD Mon 10 - 7.30 or Thurs 2-4.

Slade Lane Flyover



The design of the railway flyover has been changed from a concrete viaduct to solid embankments with a steel flyover.

Meanwhile the residents of the little area from Woodfold Ave to Park Grove are still in the dark about their future. The Railway will not be getting any money of the Corporation before May - the date May 22nd has been mentioned but nobody is really sure if anything will happen then. The Railway are meant to acquire 2-10 Woodfold, 2-8 Prince Albert Ave, 18-28 Belvoir and 2-16 Hapton. Also if nearby houseowners complain of disturbance British Rail can offer to buy them out too.

The Corporation has successfully stifled opposition to the scheme by telling residents that if they get away with resisting the flyover they will only find themselves back at square one a few years later when the houses are needed for the A6 Motorway - this when it is by no means certain that the A6 Motorway will EVER get off the ground.

Where at one time there was alot of resistance to the flyover most of this has now changed and many house owners want to get the compensation and a new council house

FUTURE OF LEVENSHULME

The death of the campaign against the flyover has been very disappointing to some of the residents who fought so hard to get their voice heard.

"I feel people have been bought out by the idea of compensation" said one resident. "And yet another old part of Levenshulme is going to be destroyed. I now realize such a small area cannot fight on its own, it's necessary for people all over Levenshulme to get together to save the old communities from destruction."

More information from Longsight News.

LOCAL HISTORY.

BELLE VUE

BELLE VUE MANCHESTER LTD.

Belle Vue Gardens have had an influence on Longsight and adjoining districts for 147 years. Great grandparents, grandparents and grandchildren have enjoyed the delights of the zoo, and its pleasure gardens at some time in their life.

In 1829 John Jennison, the founder of Jennison's Gardens occupied half an acre of land at Adswood on the outskirts of Stockport. In 1836 he moved his Tea Gardens to Belle Vue House situated in Longsight. He added one or two monkeys, a few domestic animals, a parrot or two and a deer, and named the gardens "Belle Vue Zoological Gardens".

The opening of the London and North Western Railway brrought a wider public to the gardens. A racecourse was opened in 1840, and horse and dog racing took place. 1852 saw the first display of fireworks with a grand spectacular called the "Bombardment of Algiers". These firework"battles" continued until the outbreak of the 1939 war.

Belle Vue in 1853 presented the first Brass Bands contests which were to retain their popularity until modern times. By this time, Belle Vue had its own brewery, bakery etc. and could provide bread and butter, beer and other commodities sufficient to feed over 10,000 people.

A lieutenant Chambers entertained rowds of people in 1854 by a balloon ascent from the Gardens.

A lion house and polar bear den were added in 1870 and Sally an elephant destined for the Zoo lifted the top off the rail van and had to be brought by road. (This was possibly the same elephant that lifted the toll gates off their rest at Plymouth Grove, on its journey from Edinburgh and was referred to in an earlier edition of Longsight News.

In 1900 the Gardens held its first military band contest, and later in 1906 were instituted dance competitions, where the Cakewalk, Valeta, Military Two Step and other dances were brought to the notice of dance enthusiasts.

To catalogue all the attractions of the years would take a volume but these earlier events demonstrate the hold the Zoo has held from earlier years on thousands of people, young and old.

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CONT.

Memories will be evoked by older generations. The artificial lake which gave its name to Lake Entrance. Many tipsy rowers had to walk to the side when, larking in the boat, they fell overboard. Bonelli's band gave pleasure to dancers, and many romances started here, when the band played in fine weather to the dancers on"the boards" outside the dance hall, and in unsettled weather inside the spacious dance hall.

RAILWAYQUEEN

An annual event held about September , was the crowning of the Railway Queen. Railway folk came from all points of the compass, many bringing well-drilled dancing troupes; and groups of performers illustrating some particular aspect of life, such as performers dressed as crows, raiding the corn, and the farmer, disguised as a scarecrow, taking a pot-shot at the "birds", usually "winging" one who acted as a wounded bird with great dexterity.

First Aid competitions would also be taking place at which railway men were very skilful, this ability being very useful in a dangerous occupation.

CHEAP LUNCH

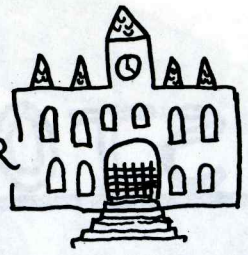
Talking of railways, it is interesting to note that in Abel Heywood's Guide Book, mention is made of Tea Baskets, which included a pot of tea or coffee, with bread and butter and cake or buns, the price of which for one person was 1/- old money, for two 1/6 old money. Luncheon baskets (hot or cold) with a bottle of beer, price 3/- old money, without beer 2/6 old money.

A prominent feature of the Longsight entrance was two stone lions which originally occupied the positions left and right of the platform of the old Free Trade Hall.

In this age of parking problems, Belle Vue advertised parking facilities for several hundred horses!!

John Jennison was buried in Brookfield Unitarian Church (Hyde Rd) the church donated by Richard Peacock, a founder of Beyer Peacock's.

Council Notebook



A NEW SERIES TELLING YOU WHAT SCHEMES THE COUNCIL COUNCIL HAVE GOT AFOOT CONCERNING LONGSIGHT

ASDA is the preferred developer for the new Longsight District Centre "but further discussions are to be held with a view to a greater number of small shops being provided as part of the first phase of development. The second phase would be shops to be sited south of Stanley Grove and they would be subject of further consideration before any commitment is entered into by the council to complete the development.

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Nos 38 - 42 KIRKMANSHULME LANE are to be bought by the council to make way for an access road to the new district centre

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LAUNDRIES: As reported elsewhere, Greenwood House tenants won a temporary postponement on the plan to remove their laundry. Others have not been so lucky and Silkin Court and Deanwater Close laundries will not be opening again. Instead the council has "approved in principle the use of vacant buildings for community use".

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SHOPS FOR THE NEW ESTATE: Tenders have gone out for 3 dwellings and one shop in South Street.

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What shall we play?

When a group of children get together, the question "What shall we play?" is sooner or later heard. Eventually, after a discussion, they agree on the game to be played which may vary according to the season of the year. It might be when skipping games are in season. The games are often played strictly to rule and although to an onlooker it may appear as just play, the children will be deadly serious that everyone playing must observe the rules. Skipping is often accompanied by a rhyme or jingle; for instance :-

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, turn around,
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch the ground,
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch your shoe,
Teddy bear, Teddy bear, that will do.

(Whilst chanting the rhyme, the actions are carried out by the participant skipping). Another example :-

I saw sister Sarah
Sitting on her bumbalaira,
Eating chocolate soldiers.

Oldie Jingles - heard many years ago

"Our Hotel"

Our hotel thats the place for fun
Our hotel it fairly takes the bun
Hot-pot
Cold-pot
Tommy rot as well
Sweaty feet and onions
Make a dainty smell
If you happen to want polony boys
You've only got to yell,
There's all sorts of luxuries
At our hotel.

Sunflower.
we sell fresh baked bread, cakes and filled barmcakes (wholewhear + white)
Open :-
mon, tues, thurs, fri, 10 am - 5.30pm.
wed, 10 am - 4 pm.
sat, 10 am - 5 pm.
72, Hamilton Road.

LONGSIGHT NEWS is supported by NORTH WEST ARTS

Tale of a Tenant by T. T.

It seems a long time since, when walking down Stockport Rd on a wet Wednesday night looking for a place to live, if that's the word, I stopped a stranger and asked if he could help. I didn't know it but my luck had turned, the stranger turned out to be a Scotsman, Jock McCall.

Prior to meeting Jock I was living - 4 to a room sometimes - in a transport cafe in Hyde Rd, B&B seven days and an evening meal 5 days. Weekends you went hungry, unless of course you had some money left after paying £14 for the foregoing. There wasn't much chance of that if you were unemployed as I was. Jock took me to where he lived in Clarence Rd where there was a garret empty. It could be mine I was told, for £2.50 money down.

The Skylight Disappeared...

The garret was in the fire escape and the light during the day came from a small window on the roof and at night from a bare bulb. The meter and gas cooker were outside in the fire escape passage which meant anyone living in the place could use my cooker and of course anyone and I mean anyone, could break open the meter or steal the fuses because the front door was never closed. I don't think it could be closed. The room was bitterly cold, especially one wintry night when the skylight disappeared, never to be seen again and the wind and rain came in even more freely than before.

This was a calamity and when I went to the police at Richmond Grove they said there was nothing they could do as it was not a criminal offence. Once again Jock came to my rescue, he patched it up and the next day someone he knew fixed a plate over the hole. The only snag was, while there was little light before, now there was none. Then came the word the Corporation had taken the place over and after a while a very rough male friend of the owner, Mrs Dewhurst, told us we no longer had to pay rent.

By this time I was working part-time for Fluvent and when I got back to Clarence Rd one day - there were still3 men and one family living in the place- I found John Dewhurst, the landlady's son and a man in uniform and someone told me the water and electricity had been turned off. It had. The son said he hadn't done it but when I pressed him he admitted he had told the man in uniform to do the dirty deed. I got the light people to put the light back on and with the help of the married woman still living in the building put the water back. It turned out later the son was contemplating boarding the place up even though it no longer belonged to the Dewhursts and as far as I know it is against the law to throw people out on the streets. Landlords used to do this because they got much bigger compensation off the Corporation if the house was empty. Some time later, in an attempt to make up for his squalid behaviour he told me he had a place for me to go in Upper Brook St, owned by his mother.

Rent Reduced...

I used my rent book from Clarence Rd to pay my first weeks rent of £4 and was told by the caretaker I'd get it back shortly. I never got it back, even when I offered £2 for it, and I would like to have that rent book now. It didn't take me long to find out that the previous tenant of my room had paid £3.50 and the one befor £3. That is all the room is worth, if that.

In company with Maggie Walker and Julia Fernandes from Hamilton Rd Advice Centre I saw the fair rent officer at 20 Princess St and had the rent reduced to £3.40

NEW VAN!

This van was purchased with £120 which has been coming in as donations from various people using the Neighbourhood Centre and is now at last on the road. It is being used for trips and outings especially for the children round-about, and also for collecting furniture donated to the Centre.

If you have any old furniture you don't want any more please let us know and we will collect it and give it to someone in need or sell it to cover costs for the van.

The van can be hired out - the rate it £1.50 per hour plus 7p per mile.

Any enquiries, call at the Neighbourhood Centre, 642 Stockport Rd or ring 248 6640

what's on in longsight

LONGSIGHT TENANTS AND CLORIUS OUT NOW CAMPAIGN. Ken Strath 2 Burdett Way.

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BIRCH LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Kath Robinson 11 Whiley St 225 9939

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ENGLISH FOR ASIAN WOMEN at College Chapel, Dickenson Rd Tues & Fri a.m.

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BIRCH COMMUNITY ASSOC. Pat Grundy, 44 Birch Hall Lane 225 9099.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

March 8th. Community Night - cards, bridge, table tennis.

March 22nd. Talk on "Looking at Pictures". How to appreciate art & visits to art galleries. 7.30pm - 9pm. Slides, coffee and biscuits.

March 26th. A.G.M. of Birch Community Assoc. followed by dance.

March 29th. Whist Drive.

APRIL 2nd. Grand Easter Fair at the centre in the afternoon. Lots of stalls, karatedemonstration, dancing display and 2 competitions to be entered - an easter bonnet and a Painted Egg. All details from Maureen Kerr, sec. at the Centre 224 4624

Rooms are available for hire: Large hall + stage £3.60 a session; small room £1 a session. Tel 224 4624.

Playgroup every morning, some vacancies

Scouts and Cubs Weds; Brownies & Guides Fridays.

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MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN SOC. Lilian Fairley 28 Willesden Av 224 3502

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WEST INDIAN CENTRE, Carmoor Rd. Youth clubs, socials, advice centre.

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LONGSIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT Dave Maguire 30 Dobson Close 273 2238. Also 2 full time workers now, Gwen & Eleanor, at room in back of library when library is open.

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ONE PARENT FAMILIES Margaret Fraser, 1 Royds Close 273 5831

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LONGSIGHT CLAIMANTS UNION for problems with unemployment, supplementary, sick

or child benefits, pensions. Or for somewhere to go Weds & Fris. Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, 642 Stockport Rd. Drop in for a chat and cup of tea.

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meetings

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Monday March 14 8pm at Longsight Methodist Hall - film "Occupied" and speaker from Campaign Against A Criminal Trespass Law.

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March 8 Public Meeting, Longsight Public Hall, to form community association and elect management committee. 7.30pm.

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Printed by Moss Side Press, 20 Princess Rd.

FREE ADS

public notices

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Manchester Corporation (General Powers)Act 1971 Part V. Night Cafes.

TAKE NOTICE THAT WE, NASIR UDDIN & NAZRUL ISLAM of TAKHDIR RESTAURANT, 794/796 STOCKPORT RD, LONGSIGHT, MANCHESTER M12 4QL applied on 21-1-77 to the Manchester Corporation for registration of the premises TAKDIR RESTAURANT as a night cafe The effect of such a registration should be to permit the opening of the premises for the sale of refreshments to the public between the hours of 10pm and 5am subject to such conditions as the Corporation may impose

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person who subject to a registration being granted may object in writing within 21 days of the said application to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Manchester. A copy of the objection must be sent in writing to us within the same period.

Signed:N. UDDIN

N. ISLAM.

jobs

PART-TIME ATTENDANT : LONGSIGHT LIBRARY A part-time attendant is required at Longsight Library. The hours of work are 4.15pm to 8.15pm on Mons, Tues, Weds and Fris and 8.30am to 12.30 Sats. (Total 20 hours). The work involves light maintenance and caretaking duties, general security (ie making sure no-one steals books, tries to wreck the place or generally cause trouble) and some visits to homes in the immediate area to recover non-returned books. The appointment will be for a limited period, probably until the end of the

year when the new Longsight Library Library will open. The person appointed may, if suitable, then have a chance of full-time employment in the new library. For further information, please contact Pat Coleman at Levenshulme Library (Tel: 224 2775) or Jenny Bamford at Central Library (Tel: 236 9426).

Keep with the times at HENRY'S
43 Slade Lane
LONGSIGHT NEWS ... WEST INDIAN WORLD ... CARIBBEAN WEEKLY POST ... JAMAICAN WEEKLY GLEANER ... BLACK MUSIC ... BLUES & SOUL ... ... BLACK ECHOES ... DAILY JANG (in Urdu).
Newsagent ... Tobacconist ... Sweets ... Toys ... Etc.

WHAT IS LONGSIGHT NEWS?

We get the local gossip, find out what's true and what's false and let you know the truth.

We're expressing the views of the ordinary people of Longsight - views that wouldn't be reported truthfully by the commercial papers.

Too many individuals and community groups take part in making the paper for u s to give all the names. Stories that just give the facts are not signed , but storiesthat give the writer's personal opinions are signed or initialled.

Please call at 113 Hamilton Rd or drop us a line if you would like to join in in any way - with ideas for news items, writing, drawing, typing or designing the paper, or selling it on your street or at work.

!! لانگ سائٹ کی تمام خبریں
آپکے خود اخبار میں چھپتی ہیں

ہم ہر خاص و عام جس کا لب و لہجہ اور جملہ ہر فرد خود ہے۔
ہم عام آدمیوں کے خیالوں کا اظہار جو کہ مرکزی اخبارات میں صحیح ترجمانی نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ کیونکہ اس میں بہت سے اور لوگ کسی گروپ کے افراد جو کہ اخبارات میں اپنا اظہار خیال کرتے ہیں جس میں کہانیاں اور بیانات دیئے ہوتے ہیں جس کے پیچھے کوئی دستخط یا تصدیق نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ صرف کہانیوں میں مصنف کا اپنا اظہار خیال اور دستخط ہوتے ہیں۔
اگر آپ کوئی ہماری اخبار میں مدد کر سکتے ہیں۔ تو ہم آپ کا دل سے شکریہ ادا کریں گے۔ آپ ہمیں 113 ہیملٹن روڈ پر تشریف لائیں۔ اور اپنے خیالات اور نظریات کا اظہار کریں۔ خواہ لکھائی کی شکل میں! ڈرائنگ۔ ڈیزائن۔ ٹائپ اور ان کے علاوہ وغیرہ ۔۔۔۔
اور ان کی خدمات کا دل و جان سے شکریہ ادا کریں گے۔
ہماری اگلی میٹنگ بدھ 30 فروری 1977ء کو 113 ہیملٹن روڈ پر 7.30 بجے شام منعقد ہوگی۔

All welcome to ~ 8pm Tues 15th March, Coach & Horses, Stockport Rd.
Next meetings: 8pm Tues 12th April, 113 Hamilton Rd.